



## *Sister Anthony Eileen Reidy, OSF* *Professed 1945*

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”— Matthew 5:16, NIV*



**S**ister Anthony Eileen Reidy, OSF, passed away at her home in Assisi House on January 1, 2023, after a long life of ministering with love, kindness, and caring. She had been a professed member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia for 78 years. She entered the congregation in 1939 and professed her first vows in 1945. She ministered primarily in healthcare and pastoral care.

Born Margaret Reidy in County Limerick, Ireland, to Michael and Hanora Reidy, Sister Anthony Eileen entered the Sisters of St. Francis in 1939 and professed her first vows in 1945. In reflecting back on becoming a sister, Sister Anthony wrote for her 70<sup>th</sup> jubilee, “I am brought back to the day when Sister Pierre and Mother DePadua came to our area to speak to us about religious life. I attended the meeting and though I didn’t know the Sisters of St. Francis, I was very impressed by their kind, gentle approach and to hear them explain that they serve everybody—not just one group of people.” She decided to join the congregation and entered with other young women in Mallow. “We had lots of fun together even though we worked hard and learned much in how to become a Sister of St. Francis.”

In her ministry life, Sister Anthony served for 35 years in the Diocese of Trenton at St. Francis Hospital/Medical Center. She recalls, “The memories of my days working in the hospital cafeterias come to mind. Many of the young nursing students would confide in me because I was as young as they were and they found a friend in me. In fact, some have remained friends for many of 70 plus years.” Sister Anthony was friendly and caring and tended to look for the needs in others, so it’s not surprising that she was also able to make friends and gain trust in her other ministries as well, including serving at St. Agnes Hospital in Philadelphia; St. Patrick Hospital, Co. Cork, Ireland; and St. Mary’s Home in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

In 2010, Sr. Anthony moved to Assisi House, where she served in prayer and hospitality ministry. In addition to daily prayer and service projects, Sister Anthony enjoyed watching movies and listening to music. When asked about what being a Sister of St. Francis has meant to her, she wrote, “I feel it is a spiritual community—stable and caring. After leaving my family in Ireland and coming to America, I was able to shape my life and live out my hopes and dreams while strengthening my prayer life. I thank God for his goodness to me in helping me find this wonderful congregation,” as he continued to guide her for her 102 years of life.

Sister Peggy Egan speaks of Sister Anthony’s charm and wit stating, “I just loved her to pieces. She was so much fun. Even in her declining moments she made me smile.” Peggy recalled, “When Sister Anthony would ask staff members to ‘go get Peggy,’ I would come in and she would ask ‘who are you?’ And when celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday she called me over to ask ‘whose birthday it was’ with her mischievous smile and a birthday hat on her head. She was just a joy to my heart”

Friends on Facebook remember Sister Anthony for her wonderful personality and humor and share their love and support, one writing, “My dear friend I hope that you are now doing your Irish Jig with all those who went before you. I know you are happy now and out of pain! You were always able to get me to smile if I was having a bad day;” another writing, “Rest now sister. You had a wonderful sense of humor. Smile with Jesus.” Through her long life, Sister Anthony has let her light shine and offered good deeds for the wellbeing of others; for this we know she is now receiving the glory of her Lord in heaven.

*All services will be held at Assisi House on Friday, January 6, 2023. The services will be livestreamed.  
Viewing will begin at 9:30 A.M., followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 11 A.M.  
Burial will be in OLA Cemetery.*

